

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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R 070322Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT BY POUCH

UNCLAS STATE 030573

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO SECSTATE DTG R 060023Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

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QUOTE UNCLAS USUN 0445

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REACHES DECISION ON CHANGE OF NAME
OF UN PLAZA TO ZION SQUARE

REF: USUN 420

1. NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 4 ON PROPOSAL TO CHANGE NAME OF UNITED NATIONS PLAZA TO ZION SQUARE. DECISION WAS REACHED TO CHANGE LOCATION OF SITE FROM WEST SIDE OF UNITED NATIONS PLAZA BETWEEN 45 AND 46 STREETS ONLY TO SMALL PARK ACROSS STREET FROM UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS BETWEEN 42 AND 43 STREETS. IN VIEW OF CHANGE IN LOCATION, IT WAS AGREED THAT NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION AND USUN COULD NOT OPPOSE CHANGE AT MEETING OF PARKS COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 5.

2. CITY COUNCILMAN, WALTER WARD, INTRODUCED MEASURE WHEN MEETING OF PARKS COMMITTEE BEGAN. STATEMENTS IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL WERE MADE BY CITY COUNCILMAN HENRY STERN, CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PAUL O'DWYER, JUDGE ABRAHAM MULTER, COMMISSIONER FRANCES LOEB, WHO REPORTED AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S CONCURRENCE, AND A NUMBER OF RABBIS AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF JEWISH NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

3. STATEMENTS AGAINST PROPOSAL WERE MADE BY DR. M.T. MEHDI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF ACTION COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN ARAB RELATIONS AND ALFRED LILIENTHAL, CHAIRMAN OF AMERICAN COUNCIL ON MIDDLE EAST. MEHDI STATED THAT PROPOSAL WAS AN EXPRESSION OF EMOTIONAL REACTION TO UNITED NATIONS, RATHER THAN AN ACT BASED ON RATIONAL GROUNDS IN INTEREST OF CITY. HE SAID ATTEMPT WAS NOT ONLY CHILDISH, BUT OBSCENE. HE SUGGESTED THAT AREA BETWEEN 41 AND 42 STREET AND FIRST AVENUE BE NAMED PLO SQUARE. LILIENTHAL SAID PROPOSAL WAS AN ACT OF WAR AGAINST ARABS AND AN ATTEMPT TO PUNISH UNITED NATIONS.

4. MEASURE NAMING WEST SIDE OF UNITED NATIONS PLAZA FROM 42 STREET NORTH TO EASTERLY PROLONGATION OF 43 STREET
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ZION SQUARE WAS APPROVED BY 10 VOTES IN FAVOR WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

5. WE EXPECT FULL COUNCIL TO PASS MEASURE WITHIN WEEK OR TWO. SOME SUPPORTERS OF MEASURE HAVE AGREED TO VOLUNTARILY REIMBURSE CITY FOR COST OF NEW NAME SIGNS. WE ASSUME SIGNS WILL BE ERECTED SPEEDILY. MOYNIHAN
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